unsatisfactory state of the ferries at Vettukadavu and Moozhikal kadavu, in Chalakkudi, Meloor and Pariyaram villages;

(b) is not the level of the river 20—30 feet below the level of the road;

(c) is it not quite necessary that steps should be constructed at these ferries;

(d) are not these two ferries crossed by a large number of people daily;

(e) have the Government made an estimate of the number of people who have fallen at these two ferries and broken their collar bones, on account of the way being very slippery during winter?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon *(Diwan Peishkar).*—(a) Yes.

(b) The level of the water in the river is 10 to 15 ft. below the level of the road.

(c) No.

(d) Yes.

(e) No accident of the kind has been brought to the notice of Government.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi).*—(c) Has the Government made any inquiry as to the desirability?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon *(Diwan Peishkar).*—No specific inquiry has been made except the inquiry of the Tahsildar after the question was received.

House site for Valans.

22. Mr. M. A. Sankunni *(Nominated).*—Will the Government be pleased to state whether they have received any petition from any Valan of the State requesting for house-site; if so, who are they?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon *(Diwan Peishkar).*—As the Hon'ble Member has not specified the period in regard to which the required information relates, it is not possible to answer the question.

Nurses—Medical Department—restriction re: marriage.

23. Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi).*—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

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(a)why nurses in the Medical Department are not allowed to marry now;

(b) is it not a fact that very severe penalties are imposed on a nurse if she "commits marriage".

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao *(Chief Medical Officer).*— (a) Nurses are not allowed to remain in service if they marry because Government consider that married nurses would not be able to devote their whole time and attention to their work in the hospital which is very essential in the interests of patients.

(b) If she marries, she forfeits her appointment.

Accommodation—Male Hospital—Mattancheri.

24. Mr. M. V. Cherian *(Mattancheri Town-South).*— Will the Government be pleased to state how many beds are being provided for in the new Male Hospital, Mattancheri?

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao *(Chief Medical Officer).*— 110 beds at present.

Statement of Cholera and Small-pox— publication of.

25. Mr. T. C. Iyyukutty *(Pazhanji).*—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) who is mainly responsible for the publication of abstract statement of cholera and small-pox in the State in the Gazette;

(b) how many attacks and deaths of small-pox have taken place in Kottol near Pazhanji during the last week of Karkadagam 1111 and the first week of Chingam 1112;

(c) how can the Government account for 'Nil' statements published in the Gazette dated 21st Chingam 1112 and 28th Chingam 1112 with regard to small-pox in the State;

(d) who is to report about the attacks of small-pox and cholera in a village to the authorities concerned;

(e) have such people reported about the attacks of small-pox in Karikkad village;

(f) if not, why not;

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